

place where the early Christians hacked over the old idolatry,
which to them, the new ~~symbol~~, had become only the symbols of
ignorance & unbelief. One can feel that they were left in view
to lead from their eyes the symbols of superstition, & their Christian-
ity meant something better - that with it a wonder, but, when we
see the enormous amount of sculpture everywhere, how every temple
wall - ceiling was covered, & find nothing of delicateness or impurity,
now the symbols seem, if understood, meant only what was pure &
good - So different from the Greek & Roman mythology! - The mind
of the early Christians was generally a good, however, so one may
thank them for it, not so much for their chipping of noses & breaking
of heads, & hammering figures out of walls - This old temple was long
& took hold of a carefully scored off the walls. - The entrance passage
is very interesting. On each side are carvings on the wall telling their
story - The King, gigantic in his charity, goes to fight a thick-lipped race,
dwarves like them, the chief is wounded & carried away by his men, the
little son throws dust on his head, & another runs to tell his mother,
crying under a tree in the wood. - Then the subjected king offers
satchels & their eggs, & feathers, & camels, & birds, & apes, & oxen, gold rings &
dust in bags, & ivory, & elephants' tusks, &c. &c. - The opposite side we find
another people, attacks the king in a palatial town & conquers them -
The vanquished are brought in, &c. - From this little temple
we were carried to the great temple of Kalabshee, a very large
structure, but only the walls & some broken columns left, the
inside such a mass of ruins, such huge stones one wondered they

ever could have been raised to form one roof, & did not wonder
at the destruction caused by their fall, carrying down great
portions of cornice, chipping the capitals of columns, & scattering
others, & lying all together in such heaps & heaps of ruins - It
really seemed as if it must have been the work of an earth-
quake - Mr. Rowland compared us to flies crawling over
lumps of sugar in a sugar-pan! It was too hard work & I did
not venture far, but sat & looked at the painted sculptures
still left. Can you believe it? There was as much difference
in time between the little rock temple & this great temple
built in the time of the Caesar, as between the Caesars & our
time! And for beauty & simplicity of design, the early temple
is far superior to the great temple, when iron & steel
was the prompting motive, & the old faith was gone - We
saw a school of the village children close by the temple,
they were all studying aloud from slates before them with
the lesson written on them, & when I came back they were
presenting the slate in turn, reciting to the schoolmaster, seated
on a native bedstead in chair of honour - He snatched the
slate indignantly from one of our party who ventured to take
it, I suppose because it had a sentence of the Koran written
upon it, & unbelief must not touch that. - We were off
before dark, so as to get down some rapids before daylight was
gone - But let it be a piece in a narrow passage between two
rock islands, where the current was rapid - The rowed up

The temples at Philae were particularly dedicated to Isis, & commemorative of his death, symbolized annually by the Nile's overflow, & the land rising out of the water in fresh life & vigor - Isis his wife seeks him; & Horus in their child. - So these subjects are occurring again & again - Isis was the judge of the dead, & after they had passed first the earthly judges, only on whose ascent could any body be buried, & then the 42 judges in the next world, they were admitted by Isis to her only joy, & called *Isisideion*. The next morn. we had a row round the island to see it from all sides, landing for a short time on Big Job, to get some idea of the huge structure & how it lay from a distance - In the afternoon I went up once more, up the arched Roman entrance, whereas the great quay, over the mounds of the ancient, Greek town, & then through side entrances to the little temple of Horus - explored a little, but sat more & looked, & then coming through the hypethral temple down again on to the beach, & to the boat, hoping to carry all away as a permanent memory. It was a place of wonderful power & riches in its day, & had its honours from many a monarch. - ~~Saw~~ The others explored all about, & sketched, & climbed - One could spend an immense time there, if one only had the strength - And one long to make out where passages & doorways led, & what was the use of sundry dark rooms - The story goes of a subterranean passage under the river. And if the Pasha instead of expending his money on

or sustains, & ... means of ... or so on, & the other side ... the rough stone in some places, or it has very evident they seem that finished the stones after the rain was laid, as the French do now - It has been cleared out inside, so the inside area is nearly smooth. One wishes they would present farther men, for these & one by stone cracked & ready to fall, half divided - And one can see the ruin it has being in its fall, breaking certainly some of the beautiful capitals of the columns below, & the cornice of the entrance door ways. Hence we made our way over mounds of rubbish to the great temple - It is hopeless to try & describe this. The great colonnade with 12 columns with varied capitals, palm-leaves, lotus-buds, &c., which answered to the cloisters of a cathedral, the great pylons, one cut through as a doorway to a small temple, on the side of the court into which the first pylon leads, built beside an ancient doorway, contrasting with its colour & work from the more modern; another column ^{in front of} opposite the *torus* temple, ^{in front of} orick apartments, perhaps, then another huge pylon leading into a corridor? ^{of some} open, half-roofed, & 10 great columns, the tops finished with painting instead of carving; & beyond the inner chamber, & all covered with sculptures, in some places the colour still quite bright - But there seems an infinite number of courts & columns, dark chambers & porches, white temples & porticos - One leading to a doorway that seems to ^{it} be in a ...

leading from the Nile, but when you reach the door may seem only a perpendicular wall below, but it commands a fine view of the island of Buzeh opposite, its wild rocks in all fantastic shapes, the ~~two~~ Roman columns & some few remnants of wall, all that is left of its temples - This portico was interesting too, from showing how the carvings were made on the walls.

The red chalk squares drawn all over, in which the figures were marked out in certain proportions, according always to the same rule - We could see the ^{then} ~~the~~ figures drawn, the carvings not half finished - Then we climbed the long flight of stairs to the top, descended again to a little room built up, containing the death & embalmings of Ptolemy, & his judgment, - or rather reception in the heavenly regions after death - It seems very probable it was used for the embalming, which was done by the priests - It was inhabited by an English gentleman & his wife, who was staying there for his health, & ^{old} ~~carved~~ the beds & wash-stands, looking-glasses & beer-bottle looked in the curious & interesting room - I did not climb to the top of the great pylons, though most of our party did, there being staircases & other rooms on the inside - The outside as well as inside is covered with carvings, though not the finish & quantity of the inner rooms - But outside on the great pylon, on the base figure of the King holding about a 100 prisoners by the hair, & immense figures of a certain God - The early Arabian had recited

most of them a - over but some were left, some could still tell the device, almost all - Then the style of the carvings (*Philae*) - the figures are not so fine as in the earlier temples - These were of the time of the Ptolemies - What was curious was, that near some colonnade or porch & temple seemed to be built to command some great quay, & some grand flight of steps leading up from the water - But the steps are not there - Instead they are in a narrow passage at one side, so that the impression is given very strongly that it was a fortification, & every flight of steps is arranged as to be defended from attack - I wish you could read some book on Egypt with my letters, for of course there are a thousand details I can't put in, & I think each would gain in interest - Miss Traill's is our great stand-by, & Wilkinson's Ancient Egyptians - As yet, dear Lucy, from Charles Cook in the Fort. Permon Place, his copy, I am sure you will find it very interesting, if only to look at the plates - We have here only the small copy which does not go into the Egyptian religion, which is too complex & bewildering to get more than a general idea of which does not seem to be fully made out even yet - Each new discovery makes many corrections necessary - But the manners, customs, &c. are exceedingly interesting, & to us indispensable to understand - But the most charmingly descriptive is the short introduction in Maury's "India & Palestine", one only wishes he had written more! -

as George said: for we were still in the midst of rocks & currents -
 the Heron was before us, quite out of sight. Mr & Mrs. Ireland
 went down in her. And when at length we came downing up to the
 woman, they greeted us with a salute, & our own crew, as we came on
 our boat, must all shake hands, & "Tee! Tee! Tee!" "Good, very good"
 & "Salaman" rounded all round - Meantime the wind had risen,
 & the sails, who were also to take the Hindius down, having come on
 the 10th all the way to Assuan, could not get back in time, for the
 boat can only come when there is no wind & make starting difficult.
 So, to our regret, we must stay all day & wait for the next morning. But
 the family consoled themselves with shopping - Stick feathers & eggs,
 baskets & straw platters, Nubian knives & spears, &c. &c. It was a profitable
 day to those who wished to sell! Meantime the Heron went on. We
 were very sorry to part, but it was best time to them depend the de-
 tention, & we hope to overtake them again later - We had our dinner
^{having had a second breakfast in evening for dinner & tea & coffee,}
 earlier, & Charles & George were to go back to the Hindius to sleep - Some
 down in her the next morning. - And after dinner, Brother, George, Dr.
 Gray & myself went to call on Lady Duff Gordon, introduced by
 Napier & Co. - She was very pleasant & interesting. Gave us very pitiful
 accounts of the depression & sufferings of the people, who are taxed to
 the very uttermost - But she is very fair & just, quite free in condemna-
 tion. She said the season was most unusually cold, & the Nile lower
 than it had been recorded for 100 Years! That makes great mischief in
 parts of the land must remain uncultivated, & the raising the water
 for irrigation, so much more laborious - We could all thank her heartily
 for her boat - It charmingly interesting was -

French actresses & odd shows, would only hear of the escape of
 rubbish, near the court & chamber door, the round about,
 so that it might have a more sublime & its magnificent
 view, he might ~~have~~ ^{learn} come permanent, latitude, north
 river - He sailed at sunset the short way down to Mar-
 Satta the Nile valley - at the head of the Nile, that we might
 be made to wait in evening next morning, & the advantage of the
 canal, or the wind does not generally in winter an hour after
 sunrise, & is at sunset, & that it is not necessary to start
 the & the day - But could not it be said, as we had
 hope to see the Nile in its beautiful form the water, and
 out against the soft sky, the papyrus making a peaceful drift in
 the side, & so we sailed round "the beautiful Nile," per-
 forming a most beautiful & interesting voyage - The
 matter of the Nile, which we saw in the distance, by
 tower & rock, which we saw in the distance, by the Nile, & saw
 receive a visit, & saw any of the Nile, & saw the
 with us, the Nile, & saw the Nile, & saw the Nile, & saw the Nile,
 each ten & so, & saw the Nile, & saw the Nile, & saw the Nile,
 which we saw in the distance, & saw the Nile, & saw the Nile,
 beauty & grandeur combined, that one will long remember!
 I got too, a new idea of the effect of the Nile, & saw the Nile,
 with ancient Egyptian buildings, it is a great contrast to the
 the effect of buildings of any kind at home, that there is no

